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EASTERN

F.O.
371

1947

PALESTINE

File No. 32

pp. 11623 to end

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Reference: -
FO 371/61760

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CLOSED
UNTIL

61760

1978

256

47

E

11625

3 DEC

PALESTINE

Registry Number E11623/22/21

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

E11623/22/21
Blanking
Washington
20/427/47
2 Dec
9

Failure of American Jewish Conference
Refer Washington letter 200/205/47 (E11623/22/21)
a meeting was held of delegates from all
over U.S. in Chicago 29 Nov. to consider
a plan for the establishment of a permanent
organization to coordinate all Jewish activities
in the U.S. per comments.

Last Paper

11584

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

5.00.
✓ 10

61760

(Action completed)

Y. G. ...

(Index)

RLG
12/6/40

Next Paper

E 11637

(Minutes.)

Copy/CO.

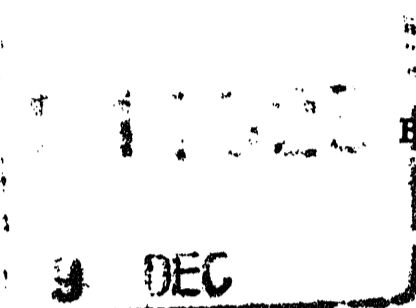
copy 12/12
NA Dept.

UN (E) Dept. 16/12

10 Dec. 10

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Ref: 200/427/47
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BRITISH EMBASSY.

WASHINGTON 8. D. C.

2nd December 1947

Dear Department,

Please refer to our letter 200/305/47 of the 23rd July about the future of the American Jewish Conference.

2. A meeting of delegates from all over the United States was held in Chicago from the 29th November to the 1st December to consider a plan for the establishment of a permanent organisation to co-ordinate all Jewish activities in the United States.

3. At an earlier meeting in New York the plan was outlined by Dr. Eisendrath, President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. According to the press he explained that the proposed organisation would act for all American Jews in all representations before the U.S. Government and its departments, inter-governmental agencies, and the United Nations, and that it would endeavour to co-operate with organised Jewish communities in other countries. It would act in all matters affecting the rights and status of the Jewish people in regard to Palestine and its development. It would also act, he said, in defence of Jewish rights and in opposition to anti-democratic forces and tendencies, and to anti-Semitism in the United States. It would furthermore take action in the field of overseas relief and rehabilitation. It would be composed of 750 delegates, of whom 600 would be elected by communities and 150 by recognised national organisations.

4. Opposition to the scheme was expressed by

/spokesmen

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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spokesmen of various organizations both at this meeting and at the subsequent conference in Chicago. This opposition came particularly from the American Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Committee, the latter of which had withdrawn from the American Jewish Conference in 1943 owing to differences of opinion. Spokesmen for the former urged that the proposed organisation could not add except in expense to the work already being done by existing organisations and that the autonomy now enjoyed by the members of the conference would be endangered. Judge Proskauer, speaking for the American Jewish Committee, said that the proposed body would only duplicate work in defence of Jewish rights in America already being done by the National Community Relations Advisory Council, and that the plan would do serious disservice to American Jewry by creating an organisation which, in the field of international affairs, would act for American Jewry in all the official representations mentioned in para 3 above. He was probably thinking of the point made by many anti-Zionist Jews in this country, namely that if a Jewish state were to be set up in Palestine, the position of Jews in the United States would be weakened should they appear to act on its behalf while remaining U.S. citizens owing allegiance only to the United States Government.

5. In the event, however, those who felt that it was more than ever necessary at this time to bring some order out of the "organisational chaos" of American Jewish life, won the day and the delegates at Chicago voted that "an organisation democratic in structure and representative of the American Jewish community shall be established to secure and protect the rights and to promote the general welfare of the Jewish people here and abroad and to enhance the contribution of the Jewish community to American democracy". It is likely that many hesitant voters were won over by a report on the displaced Jews of Europe presented just before the debate by Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, former advisor on

/Jewish

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Jewish affairs to the U.S. Military Government in Germany. This report urged that speedy and generous assistance must be given if the displaced persons were to be saved from disaster.

6. It is too early to say how the proposed organisation, which has not yet received a name, will work in practice. It will for the present be directed by the interim committee which has headed the American Jewish Conference. Of this, Rabbi Wise and Louis Lipsky are respectively Honorary Chairman and Chairman of the Executive Board. It would seem that the new body will replace not only the relief organisations, but also the American Zionist Emergency Council, which is the main political Zionist body in the United States, in which case one would expect to see Dr. Silver, Dr. Neumann and other prominent U.S. Zionists included shortly in its governing body. The American Zionist Emergency Council's aims and functions will in any case need revision now that the United Nations have decided in favour of the partition of Palestine, but if it is to be superseded it will be interesting to see how members of the new body will manage to evade the charge of holding a dual loyalty. We will report any developments which we can discover from Jewish or other sources.

We are sending a copy of this letter to Jerusalem.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

dr

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Group..... *FO*

Class *371*

Piece *61760*

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E11637/32/31

and closed until..... *1998*

*delete as necessary

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258

1947

E

E 11677

6

PALESTINE

10 DEC

Registry Number

E 11677/32/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Consul General

No.

Tel Aviv

Dated

Received in Registry

51
9.11.47
10 -

Escaped Jewish terrorists.
Refer to ltr: 53 & 54 (E 11274/22/21)
Passion remains unchanged. Unable to
provide information given in bound Telegram
of 137.

Last Paper.

11637

(Minutes.)

Copies to: C.O. } usual
M.F.S. } names
W.D.

References.

and under 8/12 for bound Telegram
This is ambiguous. Another telegram

(Print.)

B.O. 15/12

J 10/12

(How disposed of.)

now see E 11838

J 16/12

8, Fitzgerald
Koper
Charley's
Dec 11
9. bound Telegram no. 95
Dec 11

Rel. Tel Aviv, 56
Rptd Paris 2110 Savoy
Grand mol - Tripille 16 Savoy
P43

(Action completed.)

J 11/12

(Index)

J 12/12

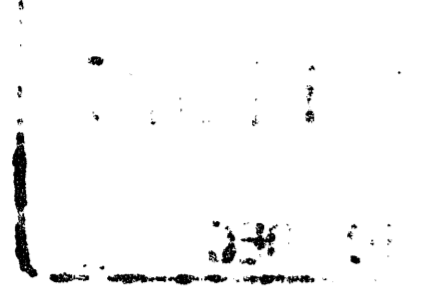
Next Paper.

E 11714

30471 F.O.P

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Fitzgerald 80
Langer n.p.
Abartian w.v.
✓ Dec 12

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En Clair

22/12/1947 E 8
10 DEC 1947 DEPARTMENT L NO.1.
10 DEC

FROM JIBUTI TO FOREIGN OFFICE

His Majesty's Consul D. 3.18 p.m 9th December 1947
No. 51 R. 4.37 p.m. 9th December 1947

9th December 1947

Repeated to Paris No. 28

E.11274/32131

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 51 of
9th December repeated for information to Paris.

Reference Foreign Office telegrams Nos. 53 and 54 of
December 1st.

Position here remains unchanged. Unable confirm
information given in Ciudad Trujillo's telegram No.137.

ccc [Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]

10 DEC 1947

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 25/100 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Registry
No. E 11677/12/31

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Open

J.R.C.

Draft.

J.R.C. ✓

Telegram No. 56.

(Date) Dec 10th

Repeat to:-

Paris (Security) 2110 S.W.

Richard (Security) 163 A.W.

~~En Clair~~

Code R

~~Cypher~~

Distribution:-

Departmental HQ-1

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c.c. } usual
 H.I.S } names
 W.D. }

OUT FILE

F.O.,

194

Despatched 11 A M.

Restricted

Addressed Gibraltar telegram no 56
 December 10th repeated for
 information saving to Paris and
 Richard (Security).
 From telegram no. 51 [of 9th Dec]
 December: escaped Jewish
 terrorists]

Please confirm that these
 men are still in French
 Somaliland

J 10/12

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OUT FILE

10

E.11677/32/31
Restricted
Code R

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO JIBUTI

No. 56

10th December 1947. D. 11 a.m. 11th December 1947

Repeated to Paris No. 2110 Saving
Ciudad Trujillo No. 16 Saving.

RESTRICTED.

Addressed to Jibuti telegram No. 56 December 10th
repeated for information Saving to Paris and Ciudad
Trujillo.

Your telegram No. 51 [of 9th December: escaped
Jewish terrorists].

Please confirm that these men are still in
French Somaliland.

V V V

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259

1947

E

PALESTINE

11 DEC

Registry Number

E11714/32/31

FROM

London

No.

Washington

Dated

15/264/47

Received in Registry

5 DEC

11 -

U.S. Jewish Reaction to U.N. Decision

Transmit account of press reports of reaction of U.N. decision on Palestine by Jews in the U.S. which show a somewhat mixed reaction, with pleasure predominating.

Last Paper

11677

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8 PO.
1 ✓ Dec 15

(Action completed)

P. J. M. 22/12

(Index)

12/6/48

Next Paper

E11777

(Minutes.)

about 18/12
N.A. Dept.

Copy CO.

J. S. Bent
Dec. 11

FARO

12.12

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E 12
BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

5th December 1947

Ref: 15/364/47

Dear Department,

11 DEC

Press reports on the reception of the United Nations decision on Palestine by Jews in the United States show a somewhat mixed reaction, with pleasure predominating. The American Zionist Emergency Council called it a milestone in the history of the world which had ended two thousand years of national homelessness for the Jewish people, and Dr. Neumann, President of the Zionist Organization of America, made a similar remark. But he said that the decision did not fully satisfy the just claims and historic aspirations of the Jewish people, although it did render a measure of justice. The decision was also commended by the National Council of Jewish Women, the American Jewish Committee, and the Women's Zionist Organization of America. Judge Proskauer, however, speaking for the American Jewish Committee, added a warning that since his organization held that Jews in the United States, like those in other countries, were nationals only of their own country, there could be no political identification of Jews outside Palestine with whatever government might be instituted there. This is a point which worries many non-Zionist Jews.

2. On December 2nd a meeting was held in New York under the auspices of the Zionist Organization of America at which the speakers were Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Dr. Silver and Mayor O'Dwyer of New York. It was attended by a large and enthusiastic crowd, and some 5000 persons listened in the streets outside to the addresses, which were broadcast from a loud speaker on a floodlit lorry. Dr. Neumann, who, like Dr. Silver,

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

/expressed

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expressed a desire for friendship and co-operation with the Arabs, said that he was deeply conscious of the tremendous challenge which the United Nations' decision offered to Jewish statesmanship, wisdom and capacity. Jews were not so naive as to confuse a political decision with concrete reality and they were fully aware of the many pitfalls and dangers which lay ahead. Their efforts would not be relaxed until the Jewish State had been established so firmly and unshakably that no one would question its future destiny. He then paid tribute to the efforts of President Truman and of the American delegation to the United Nations. Mayor O'Dwyer, who had proclaimed the day as "Palestine Day", declared that it was no historical accident that the birth of a new Jewish state should occur in New York. He observed that Mr. Masaryk had laid the foundation for czechoslovakia there, and that Irish patriots had taken similar steps for the creation of an independent Eire. The Mayor then complimented the leaders of the Zionist Organization of America on their efforts, but warned them that the eyes of millions would be upon their future actions and that their state, which would be subjected to the most rigorous scrutiny, would be appraised with a critical eye.

3. Meir Grossman, President of the United Zionists-Revisionists of America, on the other hand, described the U.N. decision as clearly unjustifiable and said that it had been with deep sorrow that his organization had received the decision to partition Palestine into two states and to reduce the Jewish national territory from 44,000 to 5,500 square miles. The Revisionists, he said, would continue to fight for a Jewish state within the historic boundaries of Palestine, with international consent.

4. As usual, very little has been heard from the Arabs in the United States. But a vigorous statement to the press was made by Mr. Cecil Hourani of the Arab Office, condemning the decision and expressing the

/determination

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- 3 -

14

determination of the Arabs to fight it by all possible means. It was also noticeable that not a single representative from the Arab missions in Washington was present at a reception for the diplomatic corps given by President Truman at the White House on the 2nd December.

We are sending a copy of this letter to Jerusalem and to the U.K. Delegation at New York.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

de

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26/

E

E 11811

15

1947

13 DEC

PALESTINE

Registry Number E11811/52/31

FROM Honorary

No. Washington

Dated 200/428/47

Received in Registry 6 Dec

13 -

U.S. Jewish Relations to U.N. Commission
Re: report written letter 15/864/47 (E11714/31/31)
now transmit report of the remarks of
speakers for the extremist Zionist groups.

Last Paper

11777

(Minutes.)

N.A. Dept. 19/12

RFB 14/12

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

f.c. 22/12

(Index)

17/6/48

Next Paper

E 11838

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F
BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

6th December 1947

Ref: 200/428/47

13 DEC

Dear Department,

As a pendant to our letter 15/364/47 of the 5th December about Jewish reactions to the United Nations decision, a report of the remarks of spokesmen for two extremist Zionist groups here may be of interest.

2. At a press conference in Washington on the 1st December Peter Bergson, Chairman of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, is reported to have said that he had informed Mr. Trygve Lie that his organization would never accept partition. He called on all Hebrew patriots, however, to co-operate with the United Nations Commission and suggested that the United States should provide his organization, or a United Nations commission, with twenty ships to transport 250,000 displaced persons from Europe to Palestine within three months. He also asked that the United States should grant no material to the Jewish defence groups in Palestine.

3. Rabbi Baruch Korff, Co-Chairman of the Political Action Committee for Palestine, returned to Boston on December 3rd from France, where he had been imprisoned by the French authorities after the discovery of his plan for a leaflet raid on London. He said that his organization was planning an expeditionary force of 250,000 volunteers for service in Palestine to safeguard Jewish independence. It would, he said, be composed of ex soldiers and be called the George Washington Battalion. He added that several "outstanding American generals" had volunteered their services, both for

/consultation

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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consultation and active participation. The volunteers would seek recognition and some financial support from the United Nations on the ground that "any infiltration of totalitarian forces into Palestine must be prevented".

4. He is also reported to have said that it was a known fact that members of the American armed forces in Europe were very liberal with arms for the Palestine underground. He asserted that Representative John McCormack (D., Mass.) was a member of his organization and would probably support his plans. (Another account says that Korff did not disclose whether the Congressman would play an active part, and from our knowledge of him we consider it improbable as he is by no means an irresponsible individual). Any statement made by Rabbi Korff can be taken with a great many grains of salt and we very much doubt whether there is anything in this grandiose proposal.

5. We are sending copies of this letter to Jerusalem and to the U.K. Delegation at New York.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

Sa.

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263

E

11845

18

1947

PALESTINE

15 DEC

Registry Number

E11845/32/31

FROM

Khawrag

No.

Khawrag

Dated

Received in Registry

2 Dec
15 Dec

Visit of Arab leader Muhammad
Agha Khawrag (letter E10917/32/31) his delegation
arrived 28 Nov, headed by Khawrag Zetter (Alman)
NAZRI NALHE and THAFIK YAZIYI,
Zetter has announced that purpose of tour
is to strengthen bonds of friendship between
Arabia (Uman) and Arab World,

Last Paper.

~~11838~~ 11838

(Minutes.)

"A Flag is Born" is violently anti-British.

References.

S.A. Dept. ^{27/12} *[Signature]*

NAZ. 15/12

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

[Signature] 23/12

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

11848

29470 F.O.P.

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K
19
BRITISH EMBASSY
SANTIAGO.

By air bag

2nd December, 1947.

OPEN

11045
15 DEC

Dear Department,

Please refer to our letter of 7th November last to South American Department concerning a goodwill Delegation from the Arab States to this country.

The Delegation arrived in Santiago on the 28th last. According to press reports it is composed of 3 members: Messrs. Akran Zeiter (Lebanon), Nazri Maluf (Syria) and Taufik Yazigi (Palestine). The Delegation has already visited Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay.

The Head of the Delegation, Mr. Akran Zeiter, has announced that the purpose of the tour is to strengthen the bonds of friendship between Latin America and the Arab world, and, needless to say, to place the Palestine problem "objectively" before the eyes of Latin America. The Delegation is planning to stay some 10 days, and has been warmly welcomed by the Central Arab Committee (see our despatch No. 431 of 3rd November last).

/Meanwhile

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.

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12 DEC 1947

SENT TO DEPT.

454100

Meanwhile, the Vice President of the
Zionists in Chile, has made a public statement
welcoming the decision of the U.N. Assembly in
favour of partition, and Zionist propaganda
continues fairly intense. The latest manifesta-
tion in Santiago has been a visit of Jewish actors
from the United States led by the well known
Mr. Ben Hecht, who produced this week a play in
Yiddish called "A Flag is Born". This play,
which was very well attended, was accompanied by
a long tract in Spanish on the Palestine problem,
handed out to the audience.

We have sent copies of this letter to Beirut,
Washington, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro and
Montevideo.

Yours ever,

Chancery. *Fam.*

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266

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11984

21

1947

PALESTINE

7 DEC

Registry Number E11984/32/31

FROM A.S. SEYAL

No. M.P.

Dated 11/11/47

Received in Registry 11/11/47

*Public relations negotiable with Jews.
Offer his services in any future negotiations
with the Jews, to be done all the Jewish
leaders personally, such his presence at
future conferences may have a reassuring
effect.*

Last Paper.

11889

(Minutes.)

References.

H.B. 237/12

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

*Del. Mr. French Jones
also 6
from Mr. Benin
off to legal dept.
from Mr. Benin
also 6.*

(Action completed.)

S. P. 1/1

(Index.)

[Signature]
17/6/48

Next Paper.

E 11983

29470 F.O.P.

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1				2	
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from DE. S. SEGAL, MP 1. S of S.
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~~PERSONAL AND~~
~~HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

See him no
as usual PO

House of Commons

PK. 22
2/12

S.W.?

111064

Dec. 1st 1947.

Dear Mr. Benin

17 DEC

Shame to let Sir
EVO

In the event of any future negotiations arising with the Zionist leaders, I wonder if I could be of any possible assistance to you?

I think I am persona grata with most of the present Zionist leaders, and can speak fluently in their own language. I venture also to believe that, as I know them all personally, my presence at some of these conferences might have a reassuring effect.

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FO 371/61760

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23

3

As England has already sunk
 so much of her blood and treasure in Palestine,
 it would be desirable for us ~~to~~ at least ^{to} get
 something in return, if only a sense of gratitude.

I have lived for many years in
 Egypt and Palestine, and have a very wide knowledge
 of conditions throughout the Middle East. My own
 parents live in Jerusalem, and my wife's parents
 in Alexandria, and I do feel I might be of some
 usefulness to you at this very difficult period.
 Czech Jones could probably confirm this.

Could I possibly be of any
 assistance to you?

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

S. Segal
 H.P. Pagan.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
 16 DEC 1947
 SENT TO DEPT.
 W. EST

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OUT FILE

Ernest

E11964/32/31

6th December, 1947.

24

PERSONAL &
CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Arthur,

I thought you might like to have the attached copy of a letter from Segal, which I have acknowledged.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) ERNEST BEVIN

The Right Honourable
A. Creech Jones, M.P.

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OUT FILE

25

6th December, 1947.

K11964/32/31

Dear

Many thanks for your
letter of December 1st and
for your offer, which I will
certainly keep on record.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) ERNEST BEVIN

Dr. S. Segal, M.P.

34

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268

1947

E

E 11995 26

18 DEC

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 11995/32/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Jibuti

No.

53

Dated

17 Dec

Received in Registry

18 Dec.

Escaped Jewish Terrorists.

Addressed Port Said remembered
of Dec 17. Men concerned are still
at Jibuti, their future movements
are unknown.

Last Paper.

E 11983.

References.

(Minutes.)

Copies as for E 11838

13/12

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 p. copies (M.I.S.)
E. Holman (C.O.)
Col. Chanters (W.O.)
✓ Dec. 19

(Action completed.)

E 11995/1

(Index.)

ME
2/6/48

Next Paper.

E 12032

30471 F.O.P

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111095
18 DEC

E 27

Cypher/OTP

FILES.

FROM JIBUTI TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

His Majesty's Consul D. 9.45 a.m. 17th December 1947
No. 53 R. 3.20 p.m. 17th December 1947

17th December 1947.

Please pass to Port Said as my unnumbered telegram of December 17th.

[Begins].

Your telegram No. 3 regarding Jewish terrorists.

Men concerned are still at Jibuti, their future movements are unknown.

I shall keep you informed of developments.

[Ends].

[Repeated to Port Said].

V V V



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E12032 / 32 / 31

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270

1947

E

F 12049

19 DEC

Registry Number F 12049/32/31
 FROM: Town Clerk
 St. Helens
 No.
 Dated 16 Dec.
 Received in Registry 19 Dec.

Activities of Irqun Zvai Lemni.
 Transmits in original, a letter received from Irqun Zvai Lemni regarding action they propose to take in Palestine.

Last Paper.

F 12032

References.

F 12272/46/31

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

- ① Twn Clerk St Helens ✓ Jan. 8
- ② F. Colindridge, H/Comm. (encl) ✓ Jan. 8.
- ③ Town Clerk Peterboro' ✓ Jan 8
all from this Dec

(Action completed.)

S L M 9/1

(Index.)

12/6/48

Next Paper.

F 12032

(Minutes.)

See with letter from Town Clerk, Peterborough Dec 16

Draft reply to Peterborough, St Helens and Colindridge

JB Jan 7

In P.P. F. Colindridge, H/Commans 22/12.

JB Jan 9

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W. H. POLLITT, LL.B.,
Town Clerk,
and
Public Assistance Officer

TELEPHONE No. 4061

12049

OUR REF.	Gen./a
YOUR REF.	

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
TOWN HALL
ST. HELENS

16th December, 1947.

Sir,

I enclose an original duplicated letter, with covering envelope attached, received this morning apparently from Irgun Zvai Leumi, b'Eretz Israel.

I have consulted the Mayor, who agrees that I should pass the communication on to you for such attention as you may deem necessary, and that it is not necessary to report the letter to the Council.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,


Town Clerk.

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
LONDON, S. W. 1.

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FO 371/61760

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TELEPHONE No. 2241 (8 lines)

ARTHUR J. REEVES
TOWN CLERK
SOLICITOR

Our Reference AJR/EHR/Gen
ENCLOSURE.



IND 220 E 30
TOWN HALL,

PETERBOROUGH

16th December, 1947.

Sir,

Similar letter received
Evacuation of Palestine.

I herewith enclose copy of a letter, which I have to-day received, by Air Mail from Irgun Zvai Leumi b'Eretz Israel. I have ascertained from other Town Clerks that they have received a similar letter.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

Town Clerk.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
LONDON S.W.1.

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22/12/47
 HOUSE OF COMMONS
 To: *Mr. G. G. Bennett, P.P.*
 12049 32 31 *Ack 1.11.48*
 I enclose correspondence from *Mr. Bennett*
 and shall be grateful if you will give the matter *21/12*
 your attention, inform me of the position, and
 perhaps suggest the lines of a suitable reply.
 Please [do not] acknowledge.
*For Mr. Bennett's attention
 please refer to
 correspondence*
 (41761)

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FO 371/6176A

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*Also in my letter to Town Clerk
 I have given a very strong view
 on the Parkhurst letter.*

COPY.
(E 12049/32/31)

COPY/MR

IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI
b'Eretz Israel.

December, 1947.

Though your Government has announced its intention of evacuating our country, it is making plans for a bloody struggle between Jews and Arabs, out of which it means to gain renewed control of the country.

The British representative at the United Nations has made it clear that the Government plans to withdraw the civil administration but to keep the Army, in military occupation of the country. The Army is not only to organise its departure. It is going to rule the areas in which it remains while the evacuation is going on.

The evacuation is to be carried out in such a way as to encourage and aid the Arabs to attack the Jews who, on account of the continued British occupation of their key areas, will be tied hand and foot in their efforts at defending themselves or counter-attacking.

Officially, the British troops will be "looking on". They will not lift a finger - except to crush any military activity by the Jews still "subject" to British Occupation.

The long-cherished dream of the British Foreign Office is thus to be achieved: an Arab-Jewish war in which (it is planned) the Arabs are to have the upper hand. And the Jews are thus to be crushed - or driven to beg for British aid. British aid will then be offered, on condition - that the country remains effectively under British control.

That is the master-plan. In accordance with this plan, Arab attacks have already begun even before the evacuation begins and they are being carried out with the cooperation of the British forces. British forces are thus providing cover for the Arab attacks, preventing the Jews from putting their defensive measures into operation, killing Jewish defenders and disarming them. Already the British forces have made it possible for their Arab hirelings to paralyse communication between Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem and forced the evacuation of Jews of part of the Tel-Aviv - Jaffa border area. A substantial proportion of Jewish casualties have been inflicted by British arms - including a woman and her child crossing a street.

These events of the past few days have only made clearer your Government's intentions and plans. And we want to warn you that we shall act to counter and frustrate them. If Arab dupes and mercenaries, misled or paid by British wire-pullers, and encouraged to believe in an easy victory, continue to attack us, we shall not only defend ourselves against them. We shall attack the real enemy, who sends and helps them. If there is more bloodshed in our country it is not, as Mr. Bevin plans, going to be only Arab and Jewish blood that is shed. It will be British as well.

We want to know this because it is your sons and brothers, sent to risk their lives for your Government's qualid policy, who will pay the price of that policy. We want you to know this because we are not interested in killing them. We want to be left in peace in our country and have no objection to their remaining in peace - in yours.

But as long as they are here and we know the purpose of their presence is to ensure the shedding of Jewish blood we shall attack them.

Moreover, as your Government's war against our people and its efforts to crush us are world-wide (remember the sea blockage against our repatriates, remember the "Exodus 1947") our counter-attacks will not be limited to Eretz Israel.

/ We

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35

We have determined to liberate our country and re-establish our independence, and we mean to finish the job.

It is for you to decide whether your sons and brothers are to risk their lives in order to carry out a senseless policy of hate and oppression.

If the British Occupation Administration withdraws from our country and if the British troops in our country, while they are organising their evacuation, concern themselves only with evacuation they will not be attacked by us.

But any attempt by whatever means to perpetuate British rule in whatever form and in whatever part of our country will result in a new offensive by the Irgun.

We feel it is right to give you this warning because we know that your Government is not telling even its own people the truth. We prefer you to succeed in changing your Government's plans by your own means. If you do not - we shall have to do it.

Demand of your Government therefore that it carry out its evacuation from our country speedily, in orderly fashion, and without further interference of any kind in our affairs or our relations with our Arab neighbours. So that your soldiers may return Home in peace.

IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI
b'Eretz Israel.

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Registry
No. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
E 12049/32/31

Draft. Letter.

To ① Town Clerk,
St. Helens;

② Frank Collindridge,
Esq., M.P.
③ Town Clerk,
Peterborough
From: Private
Secretary.

addresses ~~Collindridge~~

Return also the
Town Clerk, Bewsey,
letter to Mr Collindridge

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

RECEIVED IN	DATE
7 JAN 1948	7/1
DISPATCHED	

OUT FILE
3 dfts + OC please 8/13
8/13 Jan
36

Dear Mr Pollitt,

~~Dear Mr Collindridge,~~
~~Dear Mr Reeves,~~

Mr. Bevin has asked me to thank you

very much for bringing to his attention
this mischievous letter (which I now return
to you) from the Zionist terrorist organisa-
tion, Irgun Zvai Leumi.

It is of course the intention of
His Majesty's Government to withdraw their
troops from Palestine at the earliest
practicable date, and meanwhile to ensure
that they are not used either to execute or
to frustrate the decision taken by the
United Nations. Until the mandate is
terminated, which under present plans will be
about the middle of May, they will endeavour to
maintain order with absolute impartiality
as between Arab and Jew. Thereafter,
until the last contingents leave on or
before the 1st August, they will be
concerned only with securing their own
withdrawal from the country.

Unfortunately, it is too much to hope
that this policy will protect us from such
deliberate misrepresentations as are
contained in the enclosed letter.

~~Yours~~

J.G.S. BEITH,
7th January, 1948.

JB
Dan 7

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) R.D.C. (Pellipine)

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OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(12049/32/31)

8th January, 1948.

37

Dear Mr. Pollitt,

Mr. Bevin has asked me to thank you very much for bringing to his attention this mischievous letter (which I now return to you) from the Zionist terrorist organisation, Irgun Zvai Leumi.

It is of course the intention of His Majesty's Government to withdraw their troops from Palestine at the earliest practicable date, and meanwhile to ensure that they are not used either to execute or to frustrate the decision taken by the United Nations. Until the mandate is terminated, which under present plans will be about the middle of May, they will endeavour to maintain order with absolute impartiality as between Arab and Jew. Thereafter, until the last contingents leave on or before the 1st August, they will be concerned only with securing their own withdrawal from the country.

Unfortunately, it is too much to hope that this policy will protect us from such deliberate misrepresentations as are contained in the enclosed letter.

Yours sincerely

(Sgt.) R. D. C. McAlpine.

(PRIVATE SECRETARY)

W. H. Pollitt, Esq.,
Town Hall,
St. Helens.

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OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1. 38

8th January, 1948.

(E 12049/32/31)

Dear Mr. Collindridge,

Mr. Bevin has asked me to thank you very much for bringing to his attention this mischievous letter (which I now return to you) from the Zionist terrorist organisation, Irgun Zvai Leumi.

It is of course the intention of His Majesty's Government to withdraw their troops from Palestine at the earliest practicable date, and meanwhile to ensure that they are not used either to execute or to frustrate the decision taken by the United Nations. Until the mandate is terminated, which under present plans will be about the middle of May, they will endeavour to maintain order with absolute impartiality as between Arab and Jew. Thereafter, until the last contingents leave on or before the 1st August, they will be concerned only with securing their own withdrawal from the country.

Unfortunately, it is too much to hope that this policy will protect us from such deliberate misrepresentations as are contained in the enclosed letter.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) R. C. McAlpine

(Private Secretary)

Frank Collindridge, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons.

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271

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E 12052

39

19 EC

PALESTINE

1947

Registry Number } E12052/32/31.
 FROM Washington
 Eastern Dept.
 No. 200/432/47
 Dated 12 Dec
 Received in Registry } 19 Dec.

Journal proposals for the establishment
of the Jewish state - Palestine.

The Jewish Organization of America has asked U.S. Govt. to make available the necessary ships for the transportation of Jews to Palestine to facilitate its acquisition by the Jewish Agency of military equipment for the protection of Palestine. The Council also requests to interest the American public in economic problems of Palestine.

Last Paper.

E 12049.

(Minutes.)

copy to
 N.A. Dept.
 12/1/47

References.

E 11924/4735/65

H.B. 237/12

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 80.
 1 Dec 29.

(Action completed.)

L. L. 2/1.

(Index.)

11/6/46

Next Paper.

E 12176

29470 F.O.P.

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K
40
BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

12th December 1947

Ref: 200/432/47

Dear Department,

At a recent emergency session of the Advisory Council of the Zionist Organization of America Dr. Emanuel Neumann made some remarks about the recent embargo placed by the United States Government on arms shipments to the Middle East which was reported in our letter 1625/227/47 of the 8th December. A report on this session carried by the Palcor News Agency on the 8th December is enclosed and it will be seen that other speakers dealt with various steps which they considered that American Zionists or the United States Government should take to ensure the peaceful establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine.

2. The New York Times reported on the 11th November that as a result of this emergency session the Zionist Organization of America had urged the U.S. Government to make available the necessary ships and facilities for the transportation of large numbers of Jews to Palestine and for the resettlement of the Jewish state and to facilitate the acquisition by the Jewish Agency of adequate military equipment for defence and security purposes in Palestine. The National Administrative Council of the Zionist Organization of America asserted that the lack of adequate military equipment would make the preservation of law and order much more difficult in the event of continued disturbances inspired by intransigent Arab leaders. It added, on the other hand, that it was the foremost purpose of the Jewish people to establish and maintain peace with neighbouring Arab nations and with the Arab people.

3. The Council also stated that it would, on its

/own

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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own responsibility and in co-operation with other agencies, devote itself to the promotion of widespread understanding of the economic problems and opportunities in Palestine among those concerned in American agriculture, industry, investment and finance. It was its intention to encourage American businessmen to finance or establish essential industries in Palestine and to invest in existing or new Palestinian enterprises; to encourage the growth of trade and commerce and to increase imports and exports between the United States and Palestine, and to present the opportunities for a maximum degree of participation by American youth with the necessary training and experience in the up-building of Palestine and of its productive life.

4. We are sending a copy of this letter to Jerusalem.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

sc

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The State Department's sudden embargo on arms shipments to the Middle East was scored by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Zionist Organization of America, at an emergency assembly of the National Administrative Council of the Z.O.A. over the week-end, which was addressed by Dr. Israel Goldstein, Rabbi Irving Miller and Dr. Jouse Garcia Granados, head of the Guatemala delegation to the United Nations, who was a member of UNSCOP.

The State Department announced last week the ban on arms shipments, which includes also the transfer of U.S. war surplus materials outside of the United States, and new restrictions limiting passports for Middle East travel to persons going only for "valid reasons" which do not include enlistment in armed forces "not of the United States Government." The embargo, Dr. Neumann declared, actually leaves Palestine Jews unarmed while the Arab States have arms and will continue to get more from certain other powers.

Dr. Neumann stressed that immediate steps must be taken in the procurement of adequate military equipment in order to transform Jewish voluntary defense units into recognized defense forces.

Dr. Neumann also stressed the importance of carrying out the United Nations provision for the evacuation by the British of a seaport and adequate hinterland before February 1st. "It would offer an immediate base of operations for the United Nations Commission as well as for the Provisional Council of Government of the Jewish state and will permit necessary preliminary work to be carried on concurrently with the gradual evacuation of other parts of the country," Dr. Neumann said.

Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the World Confederation of General Zionists and chairman of the World Zionist Political Advisory Committee, warned against any relaxation of effort by American Zionists "until the Jewish state, which is now a U.N. decision, becomes a functioning reality." He pointed out that the Arabs, and certain British quarters as well, "will resort to every means of making the U.N. decision seem so difficult of fulfillment as to discourage the implementation of the decision." American public opinion, he warned, must be constantly on guard against such tactics. "The good will of the American government and people will also be required in connection with financial assistance from government sources to help through the large immigration program which will bring to Palestine in the nearest possible future, the homeless Jews of Europe."

Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the National Administrative Council of the Z.O.A., listed three measures which the American government must take to prevent "prolonged bloodshed and violence in Palestine and possibly the nullification of the U.N. decision"....

- 1) It must issue an unequivocal warning to the Arab States that the

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U.S. and other powers are prepared to take all measures under the Charter to bring about a peaceful and orderly implementation of the U.N. decision.

2) Our government should declare that such economic aid as the United States might consider extending to the proposed Arab State and the Middle East generally is dependent upon the peaceful cooperation of the Arabs in Palestine and the neighboring states with the U.N.

3) The government, or some appropriate agency, must make it possible for the Jews of Palestine to secure without any delay the arms and equipment they need for self-defense.

Dr. Granados, addressing the conclusion of the National Administrative Council sessions last night, said: "The task confronting the Jewish people in Palestine is difficult and many hardships lie ahead. But I am quite sure that the Jewish people that has shown such strength and faith during the past two thousand years will now have even more faith to succeed in this task ahead. I am with you and we will all fight this fight together. I am quite sure we will succeed and get a full, independent Jewish state."

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272

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12:10

23 DEC

1947

147

PALMISTONE

Registry Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

E/12176/32/31

Chancery

Washington

200/1733/47

16 Dec

23-

United Jewish Appeal
minutes conference held in Atlantic City on 15/12 which concluded the United Jewish Appeal question of speeches made.

Last Paper.

1205-2

(Minutes.)

References.

by G.O.
N.A. [unclear] 13/12

H-73 23/12

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

G.O.
✓ Dec 29

(Action completed.)

G.O. 2/1

(Index)

[Signature]
17/12/47

Next Paper.

12177

29470 F.O.P.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
1	2	3	4	5	6
1					2

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BRITISH EMBASSY.

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

16th December 1947

Ref: 200/433/47

23 DEC

Dear Department,

The United Jewish Appeal concluded on the 15th December a five-day national conference which was held in Atlantic City and attended by some 1300 delegates. Its general chairman, Mr. Henry Morgenthau Jr., announced that just over \$158 million had been expended during the preceding year by the Appeal's Agencies. These Agencies are the Joint Distribution Committee, which is concerned with relief and rehabilitation in Europe; the United Palestine Appeal, which deals with the settlement of refugees in Palestine; and the United Service for New Americans, which assists in the settlement of refugees in the United States.

2. The work to be done during the coming year was stated to require over \$395 million, but the minimum target was placed by the United Jewish Appeal at \$250 million for the three purposes mentioned above. The size of the sum is due to the enormous demands made by the problem of establishing a Jewish state and arranging for immigration, to which aims the greater part of the sum will be devoted. It will indeed practically form the first budget for the Jewish state, since the financial resources needed can only be provided by American Jewry. It was also announced by Mr. Morgenthau, according to the press, that fifty American Jewish leaders would be sent to Palestine within six weeks as an "economic and defence delegation". The principal functions of this

/delegation

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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delegation would be to study what economic measures would be necessary if 75,000 Jews were to be transferred to and absorbed in Palestine in 1948; to survey the security of the Jewish community; and to study its defence and military needs. Mr. Morgenthau also pointed out that many of those who had addressed the conference had not only emphasised the need for arms, but had expressed the view that these should be supplied by the United States Government in the form of surplus war material.

3. Such views were in fact expressed by Dr. Weizmann, who was one of a number of speakers who touched on political matters. In addition to requesting arms, Dr. Weizmann also asked for the dispatch of a token United Nations force to Palestine, and stated that the Jewish Agency would ask the nations of the world to finance the transfer of displaced Jews from Europe to Palestine. On the other hand, he urged Jews not to boast and not to speak too much of victory over others; to achieve as great a measure as possible of good understanding with the Arabs; to forget the policy of Britain since 1939 and to begin to write a new chapter in Anglo-Jewish relations.

4. Other Jewish speakers were Dr. Schwartz, European Director of the Joint Distribution Committee, and Mr. Shertok. Dr. Schwartz said that 400,000 Jews in Roumania, 200,000 in Hungary, and others elsewhere wished to go to Palestine in addition to the 250,000 Jewish displaced persons, and that provision must be made for all of these. Mr. Shertok called for the maximum mobilisation of Jewish resources required by Arab hostility, British non-co-operation, and shortage of funds, which were the three major factors affecting the implementation of partition.

5. Among non-Jewish American speakers were General Joseph T. McNarney, former Commander of the United

/States

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States zone in Germany, and General Hilldring. The former said that he firmly believed that partition was in the common interests of mankind, but that its implementation must be assured by peaceful means, since the United Nations were on trial and must not fail, as had the League of Nations, through inability to enforce their decisions. He urged that the immigration of displaced persons into Palestine and, where desired, into the United States also, should be arranged as quickly as possible. General Hilldring dealt with the United Nations session. He denied that there had ever been any division of opinion between the State Department and the United States Delegation, or that the United States had used any undue pressure to influence other delegations. Having made that somewhat surprising statement, he added that he was optimistic about the future of the Jewish state in Palestine.

We are sending a copy of this letter to Palestine.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

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12177

1947

PALESTINE

23 DEC

Registry Number

E12177/32/31

FROM

Alarming

No.

Washington

Dated

17/11/47

Received in Registry

23 -

Articles by Pierre Van Paassen

In recent lecture Van Paassen alleges that the Ambassador at Rio bought up 3 editions of his (Van Paassen's) book 'The Forgotten Ally' and had them burned, rather information.

Last Paper.

12176

(Minutes.)

I think we can leave Rio to answer

this.

References.

S.A. Dept ✓ 30/12/47
N.A. ✓ 31/12/47

H.B. 23/12

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

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5/2/48

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15/379/47

Forwarded with the Compliments
of the British Embassy,
Washington, D. C.

Eastern Department,
 Foreign Office,
 London, S.W.1.

12/17

23 DEC

17th December 1947

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50

17th December 1947

Dear Chancery,

Lectures about Palestine have recently been delivered in various parts of the United States by Pierre Van Paassen, who, on this issue, is virulently anti-British and who published in 1943 a book called "The Forgotten Ally", which is very critical of British policy in Palestine. In his lecture Van Paassen alleges that the British Ambassador at Rio had bought up three editions of this book (presumably during the war), and had had them burned. We can scarcely believe that this story is true, but as we have had one or two enquiries on the subject we should be most grateful for any information which you or the Eastern Department of the Foreign Office, to whom we are copying this letter, can give us.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

Chancery,
British Embassy,
Rio de Janeiro,
Brazil.

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7	Palestine	E12237/G
E12237/329 had Inverchapel, W. ton. no. 17160. Dated 23/12. Rec'd 24/12	51 Attempted Smuggling of <u>Arms to Palestine</u>	
Last Paper.	(Minutes)	
References.	Inland to: W.O. (Mr. Higham) M.I.5 (Mr. Fisher) W.D. { H.S.4 { H.I.54 Rely. { H.I.3 { M. Branch Inland to: (Mr. Fisher)	
(Print)	I am advised that the Jews have not asked for anything further	
(How disposed of)	N.A. Inland P. 34/11 Services Bureau (Cable) They probably have from another firm H.B. 29/12	
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GREEN

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1. 52

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

14 DEC 1947

Lord Inverchapel.
No. 7160.

D. 4.06 p.m. 23rd December, 1947.

23rd December, 1947. R. 9.22 p.m. 23rd December, 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem and Saving to U.K. Delegation New York.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 7160 December 23rd repeated to Jerusalem and Saving to U.K. Delegation New York.

State Department inform us that their Munitions Division have received the following communication from the Remington Arms Company. It appears that the latter received a call from a Mr. A. Robinson who said that he was acting on behalf of "the Palestine Government". He wishes to place an order for 240 bazookas, an unnamed but large quantity of rifles, 5 million rounds of point 30 ammunition and 5 million rounds of point 303 ammunition, all for delivery in the United States. Robinson was informed that an export licence would be required but said that he would take care of that. He gave his address as room 300.41 East 42nd Street. From the Palestine yearbook we see that the address is that of the Zionist Organisation of America. State Department who were already extremely doubtful that the Palestine administration would have placed any such order have been informed of this fact.

2. State Department intend to request Treasury Department who control the customs to keep a lookout for arms which might be smuggled out as "machinery", etc... they will of course under their recent order give no export licences for arms destined for the Middle East. They are also informing the Treasury and Justice Departments of this approach.

Foreign Office please pass to Jerusalem as my telegram No. 109.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem].

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275 NUM 277

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E 12250

1947

INACTIVE

28 DEC

Registry Number

E12250/32/31

FROM

No.

(Kearney Washington)

Dated

11/23/47

Received in Registry

11/11/47
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"The Story of Megamob"
Enclose article from "PM" of the Dec
entitled "The Story of Megamob"

53

Last Paper.

12237

(Minutes.)

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References.

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(Print.)

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Feb 12th

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BRITISH EMBASSY.

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

16th December 1947

54

Ref: 113/232/47

26 EC

Dear Department,

We are enclosing herein an article from P.M. of the 14th December entitled "The Story of Haganah".

We are sending a copy of this letter and enclosure to Jerusalem.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

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Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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The story of Haganah ⁵⁵

By Louise Levitas

Information for this article was supplied by members of Haganah, Palestinians who for security reasons still cannot be identified; and by Americans for Haganah, an information office which made available documents and previously unpublished reports.

TEN THOUSAND TROOPS of Haganah marching into Tel Aviv to face the attacking Arabs showed the world a few days ago for the first time the modern military force of Jewish Palestine.

Haganah has been getting ready in secret for this mission since 1918.

For 30 years this underground army has trained, armed, and even taken up battle stations while hiding from government troops. The British law, still in force, says: *The penalty for bearing arms illegally is death.*

But whatever the British decree right now cannot alter Haganah's role as the military protector of the future Jewish state. The strength of this unique force lies in the fact that it is a people's militia.

"The Haganah cannot be broken," the secret organization explained in a memorandum to United Nations. "It is impossible to break it, not only because all the Jews of Palestine will fight for their right to self-defense, but because breaking the Haganah would mean imprisoning every Jew in Palestine—every boy, girl, man and woman—and because it will be necessary to occupy and to subdue every town, colony and village—for they all are bases of the Haganah. The Haganah can be crushed only as a result of the complete destruction of the *Yishuv* [Jewish Community]."

"It will dissolve of its free will when the Jewish State makes its existence in its present form unnecessary."

Haganah is the Hebrew word for "defense." The organization originated in the individual defense groups that guarded each Jewish settlement in the wild, hostile country that was Palestine under Turkish rule. In 1907 these groups were united into a country-wide army, the Organization of Jewish Watchmen. When the first World War broke out, some of these Watchmen volunteered for the British Army's Jewish Legion.

The Watchmen were disbanded at the end of that war because Palestine Jews feared a professional army might dominate its councils. Haganah, made up of all the able-bodied people in the *Yishuv*, took its place. At that time its job was only to protect the settlements against Arab attack. When the British took over the Palestine Mandate, the government asked Haganah to surrender its arms.

Slaughter of 1920

This order was obeyed until the Arab attacks of 1920-21, when defenseless Jews were slaughtered. Further attacks in 1929 made it obvious that British troops were not prepared to protect isolated settlements, and Haganah, procuring arms illegally, developed its own army in secret.

This army was ready when Arab forces, directed by the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem and reinforced with soldiers from Syria and Iraq, attacked again in 1936. All the settlements were able to defend themselves. The attacks lasted for three years and during this period Haganah received backdoor recognition from the British Army. Unoffi-

After 30 years' training, arming and fighting, the Jewish underground army in Palestine has 70,000 soldiers to defend a new nation

cially, they co-operated to put down the Arab riots. Orde Wingate (the late general), then a captain in British Intelligence, selected Haganah volunteers to work with British troops in special night squads, to protect the oil pipe line running from Iraq to Haifa and drive raiding bands out of northern Palestine back across the frontier to Syria.

In these experiences, and in its work with the British during the second World War, Haganah gained modern army training. It now has experienced shock troops, training camps, arms factories, and even secret military schools for officers. It has military pilots. "We have more pilots than we have planes," a Haganah spokesman admitted. "But we're planning to buy what we need and smuggle it into Palestine."

British aid

The Palmach (a contraction of two Hebrew words meaning "striking force"), which is Haganah's mobile field army, was created during the war at the request of the British Army and trained by the British in commando and guerilla tactics. This was intended to fight possible occupation of Palestine by Nazi troops. A force of about six to 10 thousand, picked from the youth of Palestine, it is considered comparable to the crack troops of any modern army.

Haganah's intelligence staff, similarly, was increased and trained for war with unofficial British help when the Axis forces threatened the Middle East. Haganah agents went behind the Nazi lines in Africa and Europe to get information for the British. They carried on intelligence and propaganda operations in the Arab countries which were pro-Axis. And when Syria, governed by Vichy France and aiding the Nazis, was invaded by the British, it was Haganah saboteurs who preceded the invading army and prepared the way.

Thirty-five thousand Palestine Jews served in the British Army, most of them Haganah men; and among the newcomers are men who have served in almost every European army. Around this well-trained core, Haganah has formed a reserve force in preparation for the Arab attack.

A Haganah member told me about his army's state of mobilization today:

The Palmach, equipped with transport and fully armed, is ready for action; it can be deployed anywhere on a day's notice. The larger body of reserves, which with Palmach total 70,000 troops, has been alerted; and a string of observation posts along the entire length of the Palestine borders are reporting to Haganah's secret headquarters on the movement of Arab troops and supplies across the frontiers.

Scouts are being sent into all the bordering countries. Some, dressed as Arabs, go into the villages for information; some appear in these countries as ordinary business travelers, some scout the mountain areas unseen.

Judge the effectiveness of this intelligence by the story about the Syrian troop movement: Rumors had reported last month that a strong Syrian force was massing on the border near Palestine; but Haganah's air and land reconnaissance insisted this was only "saber-rattling." Finally an AP reporter flew over the border and confirmed Haganah. The only life he

saw along the entire border was a pair of camels.

"We don't believe in an Arab holy war," the Haganah representative said. "We believe the Mufti will create disturbances inside the country, will receive help from Arab states in the form of guerilla bands."

"We don't expect invasion—" he shrugged, "but we have to prepare for it." The Jewish frontier settlements have been reinforced. Months ago workmen and soldiers, extra supplies and ammunition, were sent out to strengthen the fortifications of the border communities.

Every Jew in Palestine is expected to share in the defense. "We want every person in the *Yishuv* to be capable of bearing arms," the Haganah representative explained to me, "as long as he's physically able to stand on his own feet."

For that reason, soon after reaching Palestine, even the refugees have been approached to attend some training center. Those who have grown up in Palestine were automatically assigned.

"In the schools, the children have always been given certain duties, certain military functions—for instance, signalling or messenger work or posting proclamations of Haganah."

"When a youth reaches the age of 17 or 18, he's mobilized. It's not compulsory, it's voluntary, but there's a sort of inner compulsion. A Palestinian feels it's his duty."

"He joins one of the units of Haganah for a year or two of active military service. And of course those in the settlements are practically all members of Haganah."

Though this army training has been going on continually, through years of war and peace, all of Haganah's troops until now were part-time soldiers. For one thing, in hiding from British police and unfriendly Arabs the training camps could never be permanent sites, but were rather any areas—like settlements—where Jews had a certain security and where sentries could give warning to switch from training to more innocent pastimes if necessary.

Self-supporting troops

For another, Palestine has not been rich enough to pay its underground army's board and keep. "In ordinary times," the Haganah man said, "the troops of the Palmach work two weeks and train two weeks. That's the way they are able to support themselves. But now, in this time of crisis, the Palmach is in position all the time."

The reserves, though alerted, are still dispersed in their daytime jobs. The rest of the community is expected to be the home guard; and civilian defense—medical aid, fire fighters, food suppliers, and so on—has been fully organized in each area. To issue orders and information to the community, Haganah uses a wall newspaper, *Hahoma* (The Wall), posts notices, sends runners through the streets, and broadcasts on its mobile radio station—which the British have never succeeded in capturing.

In all its 30 years of battle—most of it on unrecognized war fronts—Haganah has been preparing for this moment in history. Its greatest victory in recent years—against the British sea blockade—was won for the same military purpose: the building of the future Jewish state.

Immigration has been Haganah's most important job not only for humanitarian reasons but also because the *Yishuv* must increase its population, be reinforced or be annihilated.

This is what the Arabs are fighting about right now, a Haganah man pointed out. "Their uprisings are as much against immigration as against the partition—which is, after all, only an immediate matter." For statehood represents to the Jews of Palestine the means of uninterrupted immigration; within the next 10 years they plan to receive two million more.

Haganah started bringing immigrants to Palestine in the Hitler dawn of 1933, and even in the present emergency is continuing this vital military operation. Eighty-five of its ships, carrying at least 60,000 passengers, have been intercepted by the British; but a large number has landed without being caught. (Haganah will not give this figure because it might be deducted from the legal immigration quota.)

There is one small Haganah boat which has already slipped through the blockade eight times. There is also on the record the Chana Szenes, which landed its 250 passengers without interference, but was grounded on the shore.

Memorial to six million

Most Haganah ships honor its heroes. Chana Szenes was a Palestinian girl, a member of Haganah, who parachuted down behind the Nazi lines in Hungary during the war to bring help to the Jews. She was executed as a spy.

The ship named in her memory was shadowed by a British plane and two destroyers, and the landing beach had to be changed at the last minute. There were no small boats to disembark the passengers at the new landing place, so Haganah ordered the captain by radio to sail right on to the beach.

The ship was found the next morning lying on its side, still carrying some U. S. Air Force Mae Wests and the blue-and-white flag on which had been written:

"This ship, Chana Szenes, has disembarked immigrants here with the help of the Jewish Resistance Movement. May this ship remain as a memorial to six million brothers and sisters who died in Europe and as a token of the shame of the British Government."

Each of Haganah's secret landings is organized as efficiently as a modern army occupation. The operation starts back in Europe, where Haganah has set up truck convoys from the DP camps to the ports.

The first routes were worked out immediately after the war by members of the Jewish Brigade, volunteers who fought for the British in Europe. Then Haganah forces were sent from Palestine to take over the operation. They organized stations along the escape routes as assembly points for controlling the flow of people, for scouting border guards, and for handing out food and medical supplies.

A Haganah man who was first in Europe with the Brigade told me that this operation is becoming increasingly dangerous every day. "It was always a terrible journey," he said. "Scores of Jews have been killed by guards or have died from exhaustion along the way."

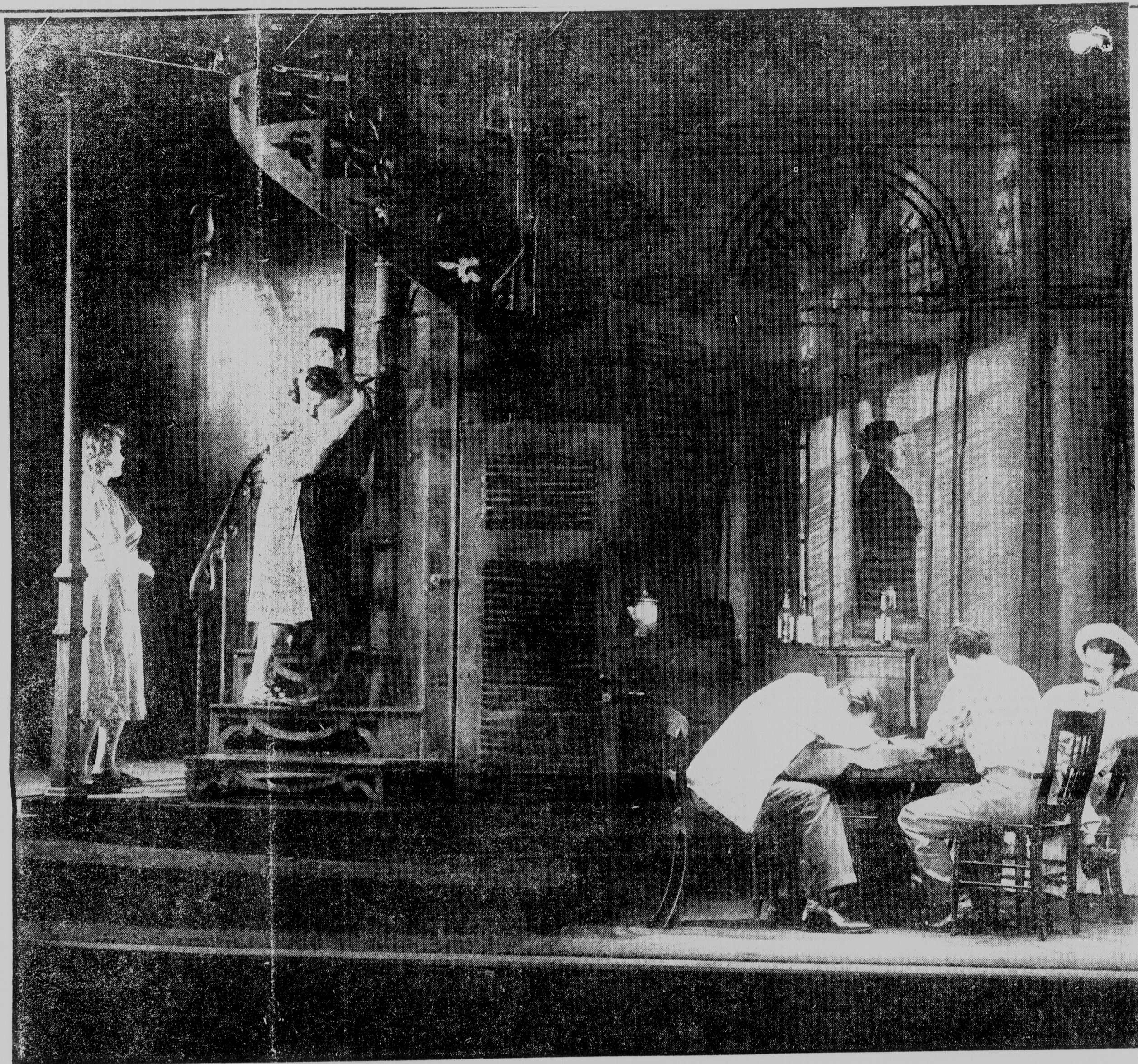
"Now the problem is much more complicated. The ports and the routes have been changed since I was there. There are greater numbers of refugees now, and the British have become more active. Hundreds of British agents are at the European

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As the final curtain falls on *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Blanche (Jessica Tandy, behind transparent wall) is being taken away to an insane asylum

The streetcar's last stop

THE EMOTIONAL EXCITEMENT of the final minutes of Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* has not been surpassed in a new Broadway play so far this season. And building up to this excitement Williams has constructed, according to the critics, a gaudy, poignant, painful, luminous, feverish, squalid and touching story.

Blanche Du Bois, a frail, pretty, overlegant product of decayed Southern aristocracy, comes to New Orleans to live with her married sister, Stella Kowalski. She finds a two-room apartment divided only by a curtain, a brutish brother-in-law, Stanley, and a rowdy neighborhood. Stanley resents her airs as much as she despises his vulgarity. He probes into her past and discovers she is a nymphomaniac.

When Blanche tries to induce Mitch, one of Stanley's more refined friends, to marry her, Stanley exposes her. Then when Stella is in the hospital giving birth to her baby and he is somewhat the worse for celebrating, Stanley assaults Blanche. This leaves Blanche, in the last scene, in a complete retreat from reality, dressing herself to meet a wealthy admirer about whom she has been babbling. The play's closing lines follow:

BLANCHE: Stop whispering you two! I can smell the sea air. My element is earth but it ought to be water. The rest of my time I am going to spend on the sea.

And when I die I'll die on the sea. You know what I'll die of? I shall die of eating an unwashed grape in some improbable little port of the tropics. My friends will advise me not to continue my voyage. But I'll laugh at them and sail in spite of their warnings! And, one day out on the ocean, I'll die . . . with my hand in the hand of some nice looking ship's doctor, a very young one with a small blond mustache and a big silver watch. Ha Ha! . . . (A Doctor and MATRON appear around the corner of the building and climb the steps to the porch. He rings the doorbell. The murmur of the game is interrupted.)

EUNICE (woman who lives upstairs): That must be them.

(STELLA presses her fists to her lips.)

BLANCHE: What is it?

EUNICE: Excuse me while I see who's at the door.

STELLA: Yes.

(EUNICE crosses to first room.)

BLANCHE: I wonder if it's for me. (Tensely)

(A whispered colloquy at the door.)

EUNICE: Someone is calling for Blanche. (Returning hastily.)

BLANCHE: It is for me, then! (She looks fearfully from one to the other and then to the portieres.) Is it the gentleman I was expecting from Dallas?

EUNICE: I think it is, Blanche.

BLANCHE: I'm not quite ready.

STELLA: Ask him to wait outside.

BLANCHE: I . . . (EUNICE goes back to the portieres.)

STELLA: Everything packed?

BLANCHE: My silver toilet articles are still out.

STELLA: Ah!

EUNICE: They're waiting in front of the house. (Returning.)

BLANCHE: They! Who's "they"?

EUNICE: There's a lady with him.

BLANCHE: I cannot imagine who this "lady" could be! How is she dressed?

EUNICE: Just—just a sort of a—plain-tailored outfit.

BLANCHE: Possibly she's— (Her voice dies out nervously.)

STELLA: Shall we go, Blanche?

BLANCHE: Must we go through that room?

STELLA: I will go with you.

BLANCHE: How do I look?

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embarkation ports. They have even tried to blow up Haganah ships."

The majority of ships are manned by Haganah marine units especially trained for their jobs. En route, the crew communicates with Haganah radio stations on prearranged frequencies. As it approaches the coast, the ship remains outside territorial waters during daylight, and slips in at night to the designated point.

Meanwhile Haganah takes over the stretch of coast where the landing is to be effected, occupies the nearby terminals and roads, sets up road blocks, mines the approaches to the beach. A special beach force prepares landing boats, first aid, food, clothing and trucks. As soon as the immigrants are landed, they are sped away to be hidden in settlements and cities.

Crews without weapons

Aboard ships that are stopped by the British, it is the Haganah marine units who organize resistance. And what can be accomplished by weaponless crews is shown by the Chaim Arlosoroff, a small ship whose passengers were armed with bolts and pieces of scrap iron. Surrounded by British warships, they fought for 24 hours, repulsing 10 boarding attempts. Not till the 11th attempt did the British finally succeed.

The fierceness of these David-and-Goliath battles is scarcely told in the news reports. You read that an illegal ship has been caught, that the passengers resisted, and that there were casualties. Here is what actually happens aboard ship, as told by a crew member of the Exodus 1947:

"That night we brought up our heavy artillery. Thousands of tons of potatoes, any number of tins of beef, homemade sticks torn from the bannisters were distributed to the organized parties of youngsters waiting hopefully on A Deck.

"At 2:30 a.m., July 18, 1947, the warships which had blacked themselves out for a few hours suddenly swooped down on us. Each one turned on an eerie blue searchlight and started boarding operations.

"And then followed the three most violent hours I've spent on earth. They tried to board by lowering a special drawbridge. Royal Marines were poised in full battle regalia—white helmets, heavy billies, tear gas bombs, .38 caliber pistols, knives, life belts, first aid kits—all ready for action.

"They were met by a salvo of spuds and cans that floored half of them right where they stood. But they managed to board up forward and made for the wheel at once, and they weren't fooling around.

'All hell broke loose'

"All hell broke loose on the bridge. They came in and started smashing skulls. The first one available belonged to my friend Bill Bernstein. He was cracked twice over the ear and temple and collapsed into unconsciousness [he died some hours later].

"When we tried to recapture the wheel house, Bill Millman, defying all common sense, rushed in and was promptly shot through the lower jaw. We carried him away and also our thoughts of gaining command of the ship again.

"There followed hours of constant ramming, head-breaking and tear gas. We would run around like lost sheep, tears streaming from our eyes, trying to put boric acid handkerchiefs over the eyes of the infants below decks."

Even when the outcome is obviously hopeless, Haganah continues resistance because in the confusion of fighting it has often been possible to carry off some of the immigrants. The fight of the Shabbatai

Lozinsky to land its immigrants didn't end when the British seized her. Spotted by a plane, she was chased by a destroyer. In eluding it she was dangerously late in landing.

"When she finally arrived," says a member of the Haganah beach party that assembled to receive the refugees, "the sea was so stormy and dangerous that no use could be made of the lifeboats. The commander on shore signalled to the ship to sail ahead and beach herself. It was now 5:30 a.m.

"A thick rope was stretched from ship to shore, a distance of 400 feet. The refugees tried to jump into the rubber dinghies, but with no success. The sight of them jumping from the top deck, 20 feet above the sea, into the water was nerve-racking. In this manner 200 refugees reached the shore. Now the sea turned into a hell, and the rescue squads had to be relieved.

"Our commando boys and girls laid a living bridge from shore to ship. Some of them were touching ground, but most of them were swimming. Each refugee had to be fished out of the water and passed along from hand to hand. At the beginning only the men jumped, but now more and more women dared the plunge.

"Many of them swallowed a lot of sea water, and had to be treated by doctors and nurses on shore. Some collapsed as they reached the shore. A special commando squad was swimming around the ship to rescue the refugees from drowning.

Anger and despair

"By 8 a.m. we called in the settlers of the area. The settlers took charge of the refugees and made off with them in all directions. Meanwhile, many Arabs had gathered to watch the spectacle. Also many [British] army planes were circling overhead. There was little time to be lost before the troops would arrive in force. Now people began jumping into the sea by the dozens. A naval patrol boat appeared, and capsized in attempting to reach the ship.

"A child was standing on the top deck with her parents, who could not make up their minds to jump. When the child saw the patrol boat, she jumped into the sea, and her parents immediately followed. A commando girl rescuing the swimmers suddenly came upon her own mother, a refugee, struggling in the water. There were sights to make us cry out in anger and despair.

"Most of the refugees had been led away to the settlements miles away. By 10 a.m. the British troops were in sufficient strength to encircle the shore and some of the settlements. Between 1500 and 2000 of us were arrested."

Those arrested refused to identify themselves and every examination was conducted by force. Trying to separate immigrants from Palestinians, the British first tried to distinguish them by wet or dry clothing. But Haganah had supplied every immigrant with a dry set of clothes, and some of the Palestinians had been on duty in the water. When the authorities searched for identity cards they discovered that all the Palestinian cards had been burned on the beach.

Finally, the British packed some 700 Jews, still fighting, into transports and de-

Continued on next page



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1	2	3	4	5	6
1				2	

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